

Appl. No. 10/773,927
Amdt. Dated 12/24/2004
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) An artificial eye assembly for an animated plush toy operative to animate a portion of plush contiguous to the eye assembly comprising:

one or more transparent, spherical members having a convex surface and a concave surface;

at least one three-dimensional border member partially surrounding and unitary with ~~each spherical member~~ said one or more transparent, spherical members; and

a plush-engaging member integral with ~~each spherical member~~ said one or more transparent, spherical members with the plush affixed thereto for movement of the plush with the eye assembly.

2. (Original) The artificial eye assembly of claim 1, wherein the plush-engaging member comprises:

a shaped member extending from the three-dimensional border member; and
a retaining post.

3. (Original) The artificial eye assembly of claim 2 wherein the retaining post is diametrically opposite the shaped member and extending outward from the spherical member concave surface.

4. (Original) The artificial eye assembly of claim 2, wherein the shaped member further comprises:

a stem attached to the three-dimensional border element; and
a crossplate with a forward edge.

5. (Original) The artificial eye assembly of claim 4, wherein the crossplate is curved to substantially correspond with the radial curvature of the spherical member.

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6. (Original) The artificial eye assembly of claim 2, wherein the shaped member further comprises:

- a stem attached to the three-dimensional border element; and
- a boss and screw for securing the plush engaging member.

7. (Original) The artificial eye assembly of claim 5, wherein the crossplate resembles an cyclid when covered with plush.

8. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye assembly of claim 1, wherein the spherical ~~elements~~ members are mirror images of each other.

9. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye assembly of claim 1, further comprising a second transparent, spherical member having a convex surface and a concave surface, and a rod interconnecting the said one or more transparent, spherical members with the a second transparent, spherical member.

10. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye assembly of claim 9 wherein the rod is operable to effect coordinated movement of the spherical ~~elements~~ members.

11. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye assembly of claim 9 wherein the rod is operable to effect independent movement of the spherical ~~elements~~ members.

12. (Currently Amended) An artificial eye for a toy wherein the toy comprises a body and a flexible body cover, the eye operative to animate a portion of body cover contiguous to the eye and comprising:

- a transparent, spherical member having a convex surface and a concave surface;
- at least one three-dimensional border member partially surrounding and unitary with the spherical member; and

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a cover-engaging member integral with the spherical member with the flexible body cover affixed thereto for movement of the portion of body cover contiguous to the eye with the eye assembly.

13. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye of claim 12 wherein the cover-engaging member further comprises:

a curved plate substantially corresponding to the radial curvature of the spherical member; and

a stem projecting from the three-dimensional border element and radially spaces the curved plate from the spherical ~~element~~ member.

14. (Original) The artificial eye of claim 12 wherein the pupil and iris are painted in the concave surface of the spherical member.

15. (Original) The artificial eye of claim 12, wherein the pupil and iris are inserted into the concave surface of the spherical member.

16. (Original) A method of attaching a plush covering of a toy to a movable artificial eye assembly to effect animation of the covering, wherein each eye of the assembly includes a retaining post and a plush engaging member having a stem with attached crossplate radially spaced from the eye, and the covering includes openings and a flap attached to a portion of each opening, wherein the flap is forked in two branches, each branch having a hole at its free end, the method comprising:

inserting a toy body into the plush covering;

aligning the body with the openings in the plush covering;

inserting the flaps into the body;

disposing the artificial eye assembly within the body;

for each eye of the assembly inserting the first and second branch of the flap between the crossplate and eye, each branch separated by the stem;

stretching the first branch across the back of the eye and placing the hole of the free end onto the retaining post; and

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stretching the second branch across the back of the eye, partially overlapping the first branch and placing the hole of the free end onto the retaining post.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 21 wherein the plush-~~animating-engaging~~ member further comprises:

a shaped member extending from the three-dimensional eyelid member; and
a retaining post.

19. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye of claim 18 wherein the retaining post is diametrically opposite the shaped member ~~and extending outward from the generally planar rear face.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The artificial eye of claim 19, wherein the shaped member further comprises:

a stem attached to the three-dimensional eyelid member; and
a crossplate with a forward edge ~~wherein the crossplate is curved to substantially correspond with the radial curvature of the spherical eyeball.~~

21. (New) An artificial eye assembly for an animated plush toy operative to animate a portion of plush contiguous to the eye assembly comprising:

one or more transparent, spherical members having a convex surface and a concave surface;
at least one three-dimensional border member partially surrounding and unitary with said one or more transparent, spherical members; and
a plush-engaging member integral with said one or more transparent, spherical members receiving the portion of the plush contiguous to the eye assembly being inserted between said three-dimensional border member and the plush-engaging member

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extending the plush behind said one or more transparent, spherical members and affixed thereto for movement of the plush with the eye assembly.